

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows.

1. (Currently Amended) A ~~scrambling unit for a~~ digital audiovisual transmission system, ~~the scrambling unit~~ comprising:

a multiplexer; and

a scrambling unit physically separate from the multiplexer,

wherein the scrambling unit comprises:

an input for receiving an assembled transport packet stream from a the physically separate multiplexer,

a scrambling device for scrambling the received transport stream according to a randomizing control word, and

an output for sending the scrambled transport stream to a transmitter means for subsequent transmission, ~~so as to permit~~ the scrambling of the transport packet stream by the scrambling unit being independently of the multiplexer operations.

2. (Currently Amended) The ~~scrambling unit~~ digital audiovisual system as claimed in claim 1, in which the scrambling device is adapted to carry out scrambling on some or all of the payload of selected packets of the transport stream packet.

3. (Currently Amended) The ~~scrambling unit~~ digital audiovisual system as claimed in claim 1, in which the scrambling unit further comprisesing a packet insertion means for inserting transport packet data in the transport stream.

4. (Currently Amended) The ~~scrambling unit~~ digital audiovisual system as claimed in claim 3, in which the packet insertion means inserts a packet of data in the transport stream by detecting the presence of a null packet and replacing a null packet by the packet to be inserted.

5. (Currently Amended) The ~~scrambling unit~~ digital audiovisual system as claimed in claim 1, wherein the scrambling unit further comprisesing packet filter means for identifying and copying to a memory part or all of a predetermined transport packet.

6. (Currently Amended) The ~~scrambling unit~~ digital audiovisual system as claimed in claim 1, wherein the scrambling unit further comprises~~ing~~ packet deletion means for deleting a predetermined packet or set of packets.
7. (Currently Amended) The ~~scrambling unit~~ digital audiovisual system as claimed in claim 6, wherein the packet deletion means deletes a packet by transforming the packet ID of the packet to that of a null packet.
8. (Currently Amended) The ~~scrambling unit~~ digital audiovisual system as claimed in claim 1, wherein the scrambling unit further comprises~~ing~~ packet counting means for counting the number of packets of a predetermined packet ID value in the received transport data stream.
9. (Currently Amended) The ~~scrambling unit~~ digital audiovisual system as claimed in claim 1, wherein the scrambling unit further comprises~~ing~~ packet ID re-mapping means for changing the packet ID value assigned to a predetermined packet or set of packets.
10. (Currently Amended) A ~~scrambling system comprising a scrambling unit~~ digital audiovisual system as claimed in claim 1, wherein the scrambling unit is part of a scrambling system, and the scrambling system further comprises ~~together with~~ central control means for generating a control word sent to and received by the scrambling unit for scrambling the transport stream.
11. (Currently Amended) The ~~scrambling system~~ digital audiovisual system as claimed in claim 10, wherein the scrambling system further comprises~~ing~~ one or more access control systems connected to the central control means and adapted to receive a control word supplied by the central control means and to send back to the central control means an encrypted message containing the control word.
12. (Currently Amended) The ~~scrambling system~~ digital audiovisual system as claimed in claim 10, in which some or all of the data sent from the central control means to the scrambling unit is authenticated by the central control means by generation of a signature in accordance with a secret encryption key.
13. (Currently Amended) The ~~scrambling system~~ digital audiovisual system as claimed in claim[[s]] 10, wherein the scrambling system comprises~~ing~~ a plurality of scrambling units and associated central control means associated with the generation of a single transport stream.

14. (Currently Amended) The ~~serambling system~~ digital audiovisual system as claimed in claim[[s]] 10, in which the scrambling unit is adapted to store its working configuration characteristics and/or the current control word value.

15-16. (Cancelled)